

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1902.

TO THE Street Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report for
the year ending December 31st, 1902.

AREA OF THE PARISH OF STREET—2918 acres.

POPULATION—Census 1901, 4018. Estimated to middle of 1902 at 4080.

GEOLOGY.—Lower lias, consisting of alternating beds of limestones, clays, and marls.

OCCUPATION.—Principally Shoemaking, Tanning, Leather-board Factory, Agricultural, Limestone Quarries in district.

BIRTH-RATE.—101 births registered (59 males—42 females), giving a *birth-rate* of 24.5 per 1000 per annum.

DEATH-RATE.—63 deaths registered (33 males—30 females), giving a *death-rate* of 15.4 per 1000 per annum.

ZYMOTIC RATE.—16 deaths registered from Zymotic Disease, giving *Zymotic Rate* of 3.97 per 1000 per annum.

INFANT MORTALITY PER 1000 BIRTHS is 148.5, 15 deaths under 1 year being registered.

For the Year 1901 :

BIRTH-RATE per 1000 living	...	...	27.2
DEATH-RATE	„	„	10.6
ZYMOTIC RATE	„	„	0.24
INFANT MORTALITY PER 1000 BIRTHS	...	...	109.09

Average Rates from 1892 to 1901 (inclusive) :

BIRTHS	...	113.3.	RATE	...	28.23.
DEATHS AT ALL AGES	...	54.8.	„	...	13.53.
DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR	...	16.	„	PER 1000 BIRTHS REGISTERED,	140.67.

Causes of Death during the Year :

Measles	...	...	...	13
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1
Phthisis	...	...	...	2
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	6
Cancer	..	...	...	6
Bronchitis	...	..	...	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	9
Heart Disease	...	...	...	9
Accident (burns)	...	...	...	1
Accidently Drowned	...	...	...	1
All other causes	...	...	...	9

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year :

Diphtheria and Diphtheritic Tonsillitis	...	...	10
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	93
Enteric Fever	...	...	1

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply has been above the average for the past few years. The present public supplies have again been largely drawn upon. The Act—for which the Council had applied having been granted by Parliament (for the public supply for this district from Rodney Stoke), the necessary steps are now being taken towards completing the scheme; contracts are being let for the supply of pipes, building of the service reservoirs, &c., and before long this supp'y, which will be of such incalculable advantage to the district, will be at our doors.

I have examined a number of samples of well water during the year. Several instances of the pollution of wells by the entrance of sewage from broken pipes, have come under my notice. They have been reported to, and dealt with by, the Council.

SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE, AND EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

The sewers are flushed periodically under the direction of the Surveyor. The disposal of the sewage by means of irrigation continues to work satisfactorily—the additional land purchased by the Council being now in use in connection with the sewage farm.

SCAVENGING.

Ash and refuse heaps are removed under the direction of the Surveyor, who also directs the operations of a staff of men who attend to the roads, &c.

PREVALENCE OF DISEASE.

In January and February, Whooping-cough and diseases of the respiratory passages prevailed extensively; Influenza was also present during the same period, and also during December. In January, February, April, May and September several cases of Diphtheria and Diphtheritic Tonsillitis were notified. In April a case of Enteric Fever occurred. In June a number of cases of Chicken Pox. In September, October, and November, an unprecedented amount of sickness prevailed, Measles being present in epidemic form. The type of the disease was exceptionally severe—pulmonary complications being present in very many cases—and accounted for the large number of deaths, 13 being registered all under the age of five years.

The public schools were closed for a period of six weeks. Several cases were complicated with Scarlet Fever and in all probability other similar cases have occurred, and being unrecognised have tended to the spreading of the latter disease.

Cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified during every month of the year. The Isolation Hospital being closed for a considerable time during the Spring for sanitary alterations, cleaning, painting, &c., this disease gained ground considerably. The mild

nature of the disease in some cases—probably unrecognised—has also been a latent factor in its spread. In a community like this, with so large a number of children, and when a constant interchange of visits is made between the parents, and the congregating of the children together at school and at play, it is no wonder that considerable difficulty is experienced in stamping out the disease.

93 cases have been notified during the year, 25 of which were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Two deaths have been registered from this disease.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Joint Hospital for Glastonbury and Street, with Nurse caretaker and husband in charge. Premises are now in excellent order. Ambulance for joint use housed at the Hospital.

DISINFECTION MEANS.

Fumigation by sulphur-dioxide.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.—None.

DRAINS, COW-SHEDS, AND MILK SHOPS.

Visited and inspected periodically.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND BAKEHOUSES.

Visited and inspected and lime-washed periodically.

HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES.

House to house inspection with Inspector of Nuisances—periodically.

Two cases of overcrowding dealt with.

BYE-LAWS.—Full code in force.

NEW BURIAL GROUND.

Completed. Planting and laying out being proceeded with.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS,

Accompanied by the Inspector of Nuisances, I have made a number of inspections under this Act. The various Factories and Workshops have been visited and inspected with regard to the sanitation, ventilation, means of escape in case of fire, and the provision of suitable sanitary conveniences. A list of out-workers has been forwarded to the Council by the large employers of the district. We have inspected a large number of home workshops, and the necessary orders have been given under the Act.

I append Tables of Statistics as required by the Local Government Board; also Annual Report of the Inspector of Nuisances (Mr. James Pursey), to whom I am indebted for much valuable assistance.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE W. EGLINTON,

STREET,

January 28th, 1902.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for 1902.

Houses disinfected after illness of an infectious character	...	53
Schools, &c., disinfected	... ..	2
Houses, premises, &c., repaired, cleaned, and whitewashed, &c.	...	6
Houses overcrowded	... ..	2
Privies and W.C.'s (new provided)	... ..	1
„ „ „ (repaired, &c.)	... ..	2
House drains (repaired, trapped, &c.)	... ..	10
Water from wells polluted	... ..	3
Nuisances arising from same being within the limited distance of a dwelling-house	...	5
Removal of accumulations of manure, ashes, &c., &c.	... ..	22
Slaughter-houses visited and inspected periodically (every three months).		
Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Bakehouses periodically inspected.		
Workshops inspected	... ..	79

JAMES PURSEY,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.